

March 3, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (February 22-28, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

An excavating machine with a concrete breaker is being used to remove the abandoned sump in the Old Machine Shop (Work Instruction [WI] -1090).

Staff members were briefed on WI-1120, covering the removal of the manipulator support area, and work was initiated.

Work continued on WI-1122 for setup of the High Energy Cell (HEC) Mezzanine. Work is approximately 90% complete.

Work Instruction WI-1154, covering the HEC well decontamination, was issued and material preparations began.

Removal of the large plugs from the HEC continued to be performed (WI-1155). The removal work remaining includes three large upper plugs, one large low plug, and three pass-through port shield doors.

Work under WI-1157 for removing the HEC windows was performed this week. The WI was field changed to address removal of lead packed around the clean side of the window liners. Work on removing the lead was performed, and efforts continued on free releasing and crating the windows/equipment to be sent to Hot Cell Services.

A meeting was held with Myers Movers to begin planning for the removal of the HEC cranes.

The purchase order for the evaporator/condenser was issued, and work began on the final design of the water treatment and waste management areas of the JN-1 Pump Room.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Bids and proposals continued to be evaluated for the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3, and requested additional information was received from the vendors to complete this process. The preliminary evaluation process was completed, and a vendor was recommended for award of this project.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The second cask (CNS 10-160B #2) was returned from Duratek this week. Cask #2 was loaded with five 55-gallon drums of remote-handled TRU waste. However, the shipment was postponed until next Tuesday due to potential weather problems. This decision was based on the extended forecast. Preparation of TRU drums for loading onto pallets for the next shipment was initiated.

The shipping papers and overweight permits for next week's TRU shipment were completed, and the shipping papers were inputted into the National Transportation Program TRANCOM satellite tracking system. The states of Iowa and Oregon reviewed their states' permits and the shipment routing plan and sent their approval to the BCLDP.

The BCLDP participated in a conference call with the Midwestern Governors Council to discuss the proposed March 4, 2003, TRU waste shipment event with two CNS 10-160B casks to the Hanford Nuclear Facility (HNF).

The BCLDP received the attached photo from Hanford of TRU waste being offloaded into the concrete vaults of the HNF Burial Grounds.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Three (3) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell.

Thirty-five cubic feet (35 ft³) of compactible LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactible low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 70 ft³ for Envirocare of Utah disposal.

Three B-25 boxes of mixed LLW (MLLW) lead from the HEC were packaged; they were staged in the JN-1 "Sheep shed" <90-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for treatment and disposal at Envirocare.

WIDE Technology Deployment:

Staff members reviewed the data of the injection cycle testing and prepared procedures for the extraction cycle testing. Meetings were held to discuss the concerns and modifications needed to start extraction testing. Plot 2 subsurface water level monitoring continued. Sauer finalized the design of the extraction modifications. (WI-984)

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

The Battelle Columbus Operations (BCO) West Jefferson Health Services organization received notification on December 20, 2002, that a BCLDP salaried staff member believed that he had received a disabling injury while on the job and that he had a lost-time injury accident. After the BCO Workers Compensation Administrator's Office completed its evaluation of the report, it was determined that the incident in question occurred on September 24, 2002, and that the first day of work missed that could be related to this incident would be the next day, September 25, 2002. This claim was accepted and notice was received by BCLDP management on Friday, February 28, 2003, from the Legal/Workers Compensation Administrator's Office. All BCLDP notices and records will be adjusted to reflect these changes as an opportunity is presented.

Safety performance on February 28, 2003, was 157 days and 109,760 exposure hours without a lost-time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance for the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. The evaporator is turned off until more water is ready for evaporation. Buckeye Landscape removed snow and ice at the north site. A new diesel fuel tank was placed into service to meet regulations. Confined Space and Man Basket training was completed. The new battery for the Raymond Reach forklift arrived on-site. Crane America was scheduled to examine and repair the pendant festoon cable system of the 10/50-ton crane in JN-1; it presently interferes with the new building on the mezzanine.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1131, covering the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing, is in the review cycle.

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- Plans continued to replace the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk